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epithelia, nematocysts and muscles. Of these, however, the first three are without nervous influence and are, therefore, independent effectors. In the jellyfishes a marked increase in sensitivity is found over that manifested in sponges due to the acquirement of sense organs or receptors and the establishment of nerve connections that create a quicker and more efficient system by increasing the sensitiveness of the new member, the receptor, rather than on a considerable change in the original member, the effector. From the anatomical standpoint this primitive nervous system as seen in the Coelenterates is diffuse, in the form of a nerve net, but it shows some polarity by forming bands or trunks with some resemblance to nerves that permit receptive cells to control muscles or effectors situated some distance from them. Physiologically, the parts are relatively independent with no central control.

In the third section of the book the author discusses the anatomical and physiological relation of the elementary nervous system of the sponges and Coelenterates to the central nervous system of the more complex animals where a new element arises in the form of a central organ or adjustor in the region between the receptor and effector. It is this portion that, in the higher animals and man, has given rise to the central nervous system with all its complexity. In conclusion he says, "Thus the system that arose secondarily around an independent effector, muscle, has in the end gained such supremacy as to take to itself a number of independent effectors, any one of which might in the beginning have served as the nucleus around which the first nervous tissue could have taken origin."

The argument is based upon minute anatomical evidence and a great mass of data collected from numerous ingenious experiments, most of which are very simple in nature but at the same time furnish evidence that leads to definite conclusions. The subject is presented with unusual clearness and accuracy of detail and in such a simple and interesting manner that persons with no more than an elementary training in biology can read this monograph with profit. It is a contribution of utmost importance to the origin and evolution of the nervous system.

I. A. FIELD.

El Psicoanalisis. By HONORARIO F. DELGADO. Lima, 1919. 58 p. Also *La Psicología de la Locura.* Madrid, 1919. 20 p.

Dr. Delgado's monograph on psychoanalysis is very inclusive and shows a thorough theoretic knowledge of the subject. His reading of both German and English literature has obviously been very extensive, and has not been limited to any one school, so that in his own synthetic presentation, although he follows Freud very closely, he does not neglect the contributions of such men as Adler, Jung, Maeder et als.

The first chapter of Dr. Delgado's *El Psicoanalisis* is devoted to an outline of the Freudian views of the rôle of the sex instinct in human life. Broadly speaking, it deals with the subjects of infantile sexuality, narcissism, Oedipus and Electra complexes, arrest of the libido, repression, the dream mechanism, symbolisation, etc. The application of these principles in the explanation of such perversions as homosexuality is adequately set forth, and the necessity of a natural development of the libido for the formation of a normal personality is emphasized.

The second chapter of the monograph is a brief but clear presentation of the theory of the sexual etiology of the psychoneuroses and allied mental diseases. The anxiety neurosis, neurasthenia, hysteria, compulsive neuroses, paranoia, dementia praecox, and manic-depres-

sive psychoses receive separate consideration in a manner which shows that the author has grasped the full implications of the psychoanalytic doctrines. A little peculiar, however, may appear the inclusion in the same category of the *defence mechanism*, which is usually considered with the other Freudian mechanisms described in the preceding chapter.

The third chapter gives an account of the methodology and technique of the psychoanalytic therapy. The last two chapters are of a more general nature, and are devoted to a defence of the psychoanalytic theory and practice, and to a rather philosophical discussion of the new dynamic conception of the psychic life which the psychoanalytic statements involve.

The small pamphlet called *La Psicología de la Locura* (The Psychology of Madness), is a brief statement of the new psychological data concerning this problem which the psychoanalysts have given us. It is written in popular style, and does not pretend to have the scope of the larger monograph. The latter is to be highly recommended to students best acquainted with the Spanish language both as a summary of the subject and as a guide to other literature in the same field.

PHYLLIS BLANCHARD.